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H106.808P (Rev. 5/90)

PENNSYLVANIA VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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SECRETARY

STATE HEALTH DATA CENTER
HARRISBURG, PA

MAY, 1990

The Mission of the Pennsylvania Department of Health is to develop an effective public health system which promotes the optimal health of Pennsylvania's citizens and reduces their need for medical care by:

- Assisting citizens to adopt healthful behaviors, eliminating preventable illness,
- Reducing the severity of illness and disability,
- Facilitating access to high quality health care in the appropriate setting, and
- Identifying and eliminating health hazards.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is an equal opportunity provider of grants, contracts, services, and employment.

PENNSYLVANIA VITAL STATISTICS

PREFACE

This publication of 1988 Vital Statistics for Pennsylvania was prepared by the Division of Health Statistics and Research of the State Health Data Center, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

This 1988 report incorporates several changes from the 1987 edition. Most of the changes made to this 1988 report were developed in accordance with recommendations made by staff and others who commented on the content of previous reports. We thank our users for any compliments and suggestions and encourage their contributions.

Among the changes made is the inclusion of a new section on induced abortions. We added this section in response to the increasing demand for reported pregnancy statistics for Pennsylvania. Induced abortions are one of the three components used to compile reported pregnancy data, the other two being live births and fetal deaths (non-induced). Another addition is a data table presenting infant, neonatal, and postneonatal deaths by number and rate by race for 1980 through 1988, along with line graphs depicting these historical data. Other additions include pie charts depicting the percentage of live births by race of child and trimester of mother's first prenatal visit. One more important change that may not be so noticeable is the use of "Unintentional Injuries" in place of "Accidents" among the titles for major selected causes of death data. "Unintentional Injuries" is a more descriptive title for the various types of deaths associated with this major cause. Several other tables have been slightly modified. We hope these changes will provide a new, better perspective on the vital events that Pennsylvanians experience.

The State Health Data Center welcomes comments and suggestions on the content and format of this report. The Health Data Center staff is available to answer questions regarding the report, including utilization and limitations of the data. Additional statistics not contained in this report are available upon request. See Appendix B for a detailed list.

Please address all comments, questions, requests for data, etc. to:

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